

REMARKS

Claims 3-4, 8-15, 17-19 and 21-23 are pending in this application, claims 2, 16 and 20 having been presently cancelled. Said claims are presented for reconsideration.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 12, 14 and 15 are allowed and that claims 2-4, 13 and 16-23 are objected to as allowable over the prior art of record, but dependent upon rejected claims. Only claims 8 -11 remain rejected.

The claims have been amended in accord with the current rules in which underlining shows additions and strikethrough shows deletions. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended their claims in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim a preferred aspect of their invention. Thus, the limits of previously presented claim 2 have been incorporated into claims 8-10. Since claims 2, 16 and 20 fail to further limit amended claims 8-10, they have been presently cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 8-11 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Cook in view of published European Patent Application 811,506 (Kimura et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,124,067 (Itoh et al.). However, claim 2 is allowable over this reference combination.

Since the limits of claim 2 have been incorporated into claims 8-10, and claim 11 depends on presently amended claim 8, applicants aver that 8-11 are allowable over this reference combination.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Cook in view of published European Patent Application 811,506 (Kimura et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,124,067 (Itoh et al.) is respectfully solicited in light of the remarks *supra*.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 3-4, 8-15, 17-19 and 21-23 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin T. Mansfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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